

RELATING TO THE POLICING OF THE BUILDINGS AND
GROUNDS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION AND
ITS CONSTITUENT BUREAUS

SEPTEMBER 13, 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HAYDEN, from the Committee on Rules and Administration,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1038]

The Committee on Rules and Administration, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1038) relating to the policing of the buildings and grounds of the Smithsonian Institution and its constituent bureaus, having considered the same, report favorably thereon, with amendments, and recommend that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

On page 3, lines 2 and 3, strike out the words "one or more of the daily newspapers published in the District of Columbia" and insert: "the Federal Register".

On page 3, line 16, strike out "\$10,000" and insert "\$5,000".

On page 3, line 17, strike out "ten" and insert "five".

The amendments are designed to bring the bill into closer conformity with like measures passed by Congress for police protection of the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress.

By publishing regulations which may be issued pursuant to section 5 in the Federal Register, greater official sanction will be given them than if printed as legal insertions in a newspaper of daily circulation of Washington.

Reducing the maximum period of imprisonment from 10 to 5 years will prescribe the same penalty for destructive acts within the specified buildings and grounds as is contained in Public Law 250, Eighty-first Congress, approved August 18, 1949, entitled "An act relating to the policing of the building and grounds of the Supreme Court of the United States," and Public Law 659, Eighty-first Congress, approved August 4, 1950, entitled "An act relating to the policing of the buildings and grounds of the Library of Congress."

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Both of those measures prescribe a maximum period of imprisonment of 5 years for acts exceeding damage of \$100. Neither law contains provisions for a fine. However, because of the exposure to theft or damage of many valuable art objects and irreplaceable works of national historical value in the National Gallery of Art and in other buildings, the committee feels that the fine contained in this bill has worth and should stand along with the proposed prison sentence. For damage or destruction exceeding \$100 in any of the specified areas a maximum fine of \$5,000 may be imposed in addition to maximum imprisonment for 5 years.

This legislation, if passed, will give to the designated special police of the Smithsonian Institution and of the National Gallery of Art all rights of civil arrest and investigation now granted to the police of the Supreme Court and Library of Congress in their jurisdictions, and those of the other law-enforcing bodies in the District of Columbia. The designated special police also will be permitted hereafter to detain or otherwise question persons for acts committed in their jurisdictions without fear of being sued for false arrest, and will be able to proceed with the authority of their own regulations on their own grounds.

This act also gives the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and the trustees of the National Gallery of Art authority to prescribe enforceable regulations which will apply to the specified buildings and grounds which will be supplemental to other Federal acts protecting Federal property.

